In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A key blank comprising:

a generally elongate shaft portion defining first and second generally flat oppositely directed side surfaces, joined by edge surfaces, at least one of said first and second side surfaces cuttable to form key cuts that define a key combination surface;

characterized by at least one key combination element movably disposed in the elongate shaft portion and adapted for touching a lock combination element disposed in a cylinder lock plug, wherein said at least one key combination element has inherent energy for applying an urging force against the lock combination element, and wherein said at least one key combination element comprises ~~a~~ resilient arms disposed in a recess formed in said elongate shaft portion and capable of resiliently protruding outwards from the recess beyond both of said first and second side surfaces before entering the cylinder lock plug.

2. (Currently amended) A key blank comprising:

a generally elongate shaft portion defining first and second generally flat oppositely directed side surfaces, joined by edge surfaces, at least one of said first and second side surfaces cuttable to form key cuts that define a key combination surface;

characterized by at least one key combination element pivotable about a pivot axis and movably disposed in the elongate shaft portion and adapted for touching a lock combination element disposed in a cylinder lock plug, wherein said at least one key combination element has inherent energy for applying an urging force against the lock combination element, wherein the urging force of said at least one key combination element against the lock combination element is greater than a spring force of the lock combination element against said at least one key combination element.

3. (Previously amended) The key blank according to claim 1, wherein said at least one key combination element comprises a plurality of interface surfaces for urging at least one lock combination element.

4. (Previously amended) The key blank according to claim 1, wherein said at least one key combination element comprises a pair of resilient arms extending from a common base which is pivotally mounted in an arcuate cutout extending from said recess, and wherein said recess is formed with grooves radially emanating from the arcuate cutout, wherein walls of said grooves define limits of angular motion of said resilient arms.

5. (Currently amended) A key comprising:

a generally elongate shaft portion defining first and second generally flat oppositely directed side surfaces, joined by edge surfaces, at least one of said first and second side surfaces being formed with key cuts that define a key combination surface;

characterized by at least one key combination element movably disposed in the elongate shaft portion and adapted for touching a lock combination element disposed in a cylinder lock plug, wherein said at least one key combination element has inherent energy for applying an urging force against the lock combination element, and wherein said at least one key combination element comprises ~~a~~ resilient arms disposed in a recess formed in said elongate shaft portion and capable of resiliently protruding outwards from the recess beyond both of said first and second side surfaces before entering in the cylinder lock plug.

6. (Currently amended) A key comprising:

a generally elongate shaft portion defining first and second generally flat oppositely directed side surfaces, joined by edge surfaces, at least one of said first and second side surfaces being formed with key cuts that define a key combination surface;

characterized by at least one key combination element pivotable about a pivot axis and movably disposed in the elongate shaft portion and adapted for touching a lock combination element disposed in a cylinder lock plug, wherein said at least one key combination element has inherent energy for applying an urging force against the lock combination element, wherein the urging force of said at least one key combination element against the lock combination element is greater than a spring force of the lock combination element against said at least one key combination element.

7. (Previously amended) The key according to claim 5, wherein said at least one key combination element comprises a plurality of interface surfaces for urging at least one lock combination element.

8. (Previously amended) The key according to claim 5, wherein said at least one key combination element comprises a pair of resilient arms extending from a common base which is pivotally mounted in an arcuate cutout extending from said recess, and wherein said recess is formed with grooves radially emanating from the arcuate cutout, wherein walls of said grooves define limits of angular motion of said resilient arms.

9. (Withdrawn) A lock comprising:

a cylinder lock housing;

a plug disposed in the cylinder lock housing, arranged for rotation relative thereto and having a keyway; and

a key comprising a generally elongate shaft portion defining first and second generally flat oppositely directed side surfaces, joined by edge surfaces, at least one of said first and second side surfaces being formed with key cuts that define a key combination surface;

characterized by at least one key combination element movably disposed in the elongate shaft portion and adapted for touching a lock combination element disposed in a cylinder lock plug, wherein said at least one key combination element has inherent energy for applying an urging force against the lock combination element, and wherein said at least one key combination element comprises a resilient arm disposed in a recess formed in said elongate shaft portion and capable of resiliently protruding outwards from the recess beyond both of said first and second side surfaces.

10-14. (Canceled)